

Louisiana

District 69 Update
December 2016

Representative Paula P. Davis



MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

ELECTION DAY is Sat., Dec. 10. The ballot includes US Senate, BR Mayor-President and 4 taxes (Crisis Stabilization Center, Green Light Property Tax, Green Light Sales Tax Rededication and Hotel Occupancy Tax). There's also a **Broadmoor Crime Prevention and Improvement District** measure. Please check the Secretary of State's website for ballot and polling info:

<http://www.sos.la.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

One source of info on the proposed taxes comes from the Baton Rouge Area Chamber. BRAC supports the Green Light Plan measures that would fund road improvements. BRAC supports the new property tax that would fund the operation and maintenance of a crisis center for mental health services. The chamber also supports an additional 2% occupancy tax on hotel rooms that would fund economic development - improvements to the Raising Cane's River Center and tourism promotion by Visit Baton Rouge. Read about BRAC's positions:

http://www.brac.org/docs/pdf/EBR%20AND%20STATEWIDE%20REFERENDUMS_SECOND.pdf

Recently, I attended the National Summit on Education Reform presented by the Foundation for Excellence in Education. Gov. Jeb Bush and Dr. Condoleezza Rice hosted more than 1,000 education leaders. Around the world, American students rank 21st in science and 27th in math. In the US, LA students rank 48th in math, 48th in reading, 45th in dropout rate and 47th in ACT scores. We must reverse these trends if our children are going to compete in the 21st century economy. We must build an education system in LA that equips every child to achieve his or her God-given potential.

While in Washington, D.C., for the National Summit, I also visited with Congressman Steve Scalise (Majority Whip) and Congressman Garrett Graves (represents District 69). The entire LA delegation along with Gov. Edwards continue to work on maximizing the federal appropriation for flood recovery. They've made delivering additional aid to our state a top priority. Frustrating to Rep. Graves, the Obama administration didn't release guidelines for how the initial appropriation could be spent until late November, so flood victims unfortunately won't start receiving aid until January 2017.

Finally, I was recently recognized by the Louisiana Industrial Development Executives Association with a Legislative Ally Award for my support of economic development in committee hearings and during House floor debates. It's important to focus on increasing capital investment, increasing wages and increasing the ability of our citizens to qualify for higher wage jobs in our communities.

Paula